

Issue 16 Aug. 4, 2006

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Items of Interest:

- **Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital Sailor Picked for National Honor.** Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Dempsey Lamar Tomblin, an Advanced Radiology Technician in the hospital's Radiology Department, has been selected as this year's American Legion's Sprit of America Award winner for the U.S. Navy.
- **NH Camp Pendleton Receives "Most Wired" Award.** Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton was recognized as one of the nation's 100 "Most Wired" hospitals in a ceremony July 14 at the 2006 Health Forum Summit in San Francisco. This is the fourth year in a row that NHCP was selected by Hospitals & Health Networks, the journal of the American Hospital Association, as one of the "Most Wired" hospitals. H&HN surveyed 1,217 hospitals nationwide, and NHCP was one of only two military treatment facilities to make the list.

Navy and Marine Corps Medical News

A Public Affairs Publication of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

CNO Visits Navy Hospital Ship

From Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet
Public Affairs

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia - Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Mike Mullen took the opportunity to visit USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) July 23 while wrapping up a recent trip through Southeast Asia.

"I'm very grateful for your service, your time and the incredible job you're doing, and I'm grateful for the sacrifice and service of your families," Mullen said during an all-hands call onboard Mercy.

He also spoke to the crew of the importance of Mercy's mission to the Navy, the host nations and the international effort that has come together to complete the undertaking.

"This is a very viable mission.

You're making a difference in people's lives so that parents can raise their children in a world that's secure, so that their children can have a future," Mullen said. "What you're doing out here is a big deal, and you're setting a standard and showing the way."

Lt. Cmdr. Maryann Mattonen, Mercy's director of nursing services, agreed with CNO that Mercy is making a difference throughout Southeast Asia.

"You can see the gratitude in people's faces, and they shake your hand," she said. "That really is something that will stay with me for a while."

After the all hands call, Mullen

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BANDA ACEH, Indonesia - Australian Navy Cmdr. Terry Sladder, a pediatrician on loan to the Medical Treatment Facility aboard the U.S. Military Sealift Command (MSC) Hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19), helps Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Robert Pitka, give a round of shots to a little girl. The girl is a resident of the Bakoy temporary housing camp whose families benefited from free medical care given by the crew, which included immunizations, dental work and eye-glass distribution, July 26. *U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Don Bray*

Navy Surgeon General Visits USNS Mercy

By Mass Communication Specialist
Seaman Joseph Caballero, USNS
Mercy Public Affairs

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia –

The crew of the U.S. Naval hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) welcomed aboard the Surgeon General of the Navy, Vice Adm. Donald C. Arthur, while the ship was anchored off the coast here to provide humanitarian and civic assistance July 31.

"This is incredible," said Arthur as he toured a local health clinic where Mercy crewmembers treated hundreds of local residents. "It's not just the Sailors; I've seen Airmen here. I've seen civilians from nongovernmental organizations. Everybody pitching in to help another nation in need is just terrific."

While ashore Arthur observed how Mercy's crewmembers were making a difference at local hospitals and medical and dental outreach projects. Mercy's medical teams have partnered with local health care professionals and nongovernmental organizations to bring health and aid to the local people here.

"I'm very glad the surgeon general could come out and see the great things that Mercy's doing," said Capt. Bradley Martin, Mercy's mission commander. "We've had a number of distinguished visitors

and every one of them has been very impressed by what they've seen. We are happy to have him on board."

Mercy's medical teams have worked alongside doctors in local hospitals and health clinics to understand the region's medical capabilities and to provide free treatment and medication for local residents. In addition, the teams held medical and dental civic action projects where the team would set up a temporary medical clinic in designated buildings to treat hundreds of patients.

"This extends the hand of America that few people rarely get to see," said Arthur. "They usually talk about the U.S. military in ways that deal with combat and not with helping nations in a humanitarian way, so this is terrific. I think there will be more of these missions."

Arthur also learned that Mercy medical personnel held classes and seminars at local hospitals to teach Banda Aceh's future medical professionals how to deal with medical situations such as post-traumatic stress disorder. He also saw how Mercy's Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Forty were improving health standards at the local Abidin Hospital by constructing a water treatment facility.

"The most important thing is not



USNS MERCY (T-AH 19), At sea – The Surgeon General of the Navy Vice Adm. Donald Arthur speaks to Navy Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Alvin Dionela, a pharmacy technician on board the U.S. Naval hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19), July 31. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Joseph Caballero

the people we treat here today but the training, the education, and the infrastructure we leave them with, so that they can treat their own communities better," he said.

"The people of Banda Aceh say thanks very much for these activities," said Dewi Sartika, a translator for the ship. "The U.S. Navy has helped us twice: first for the tsunami in 2005 and now here in 2006, and we feel happy and very thankful for your kindness. With your help, life goes higher here."

Naval Hospital Bremerton Prepares for Pandemic

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Fletcher
Gibson, Naval Hospital Bremerton Public Affairs

BREMERTON, Wash. - Naval Hospital Bremerton concluded a three-day pandemic flu drill July 20 designed to test the process for receiving patients after the outbreak of an infectious illness.

"Avian flu has been in the public mind lately," said Cmdr. Robert Morash, the chairman for the hospital's Disaster Preparedness Committee and coordinator for the drill. "A lot of hospitals around the world have been preparing for that event."

The scenario played out for a few hours each day from July 18 to July 20 and involved an outbreak of human-transmitted avian flu.

While the avian flu was the infection Morash chose for the scenario, he said the main purpose of the drill was to test the admissions and screening process.

"We wanted to look primarily at what happens in the first 72 hours," he said.

The drill began with a mock patient arriving at the emergency room with flu symptoms. The staff would then learn of four other cases of avian flu in Washington and the hospital would begin gearing up for a possible pandemic. Over the next two days, increasing numbers of simulated patients would come through the hospital's gates to be assessed and admitted. On the final day, nearly 25 staff members would be involved in screening the 15 incoming "patients" and admitting the truly ill.

Separating these two groups was one of the main focuses of the drill and involved corpsmen standing by at the gate to assess incoming patients. Using specific screening criteria developed by the hospital's Pandemic Flu Planning Committee, these corpsmen were able to determine who needed immediate admission and who needed further screening at the triage room set up to receive them.

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Iraqi Nurses, Corpsmen Learn to Fight Disease, Parasites

By Cpl. Antonio Rosas, Regimental
Combat Team 7

CAMP AL QA'IM, Iraq - Navy doctors provided Iraqi army doctors and civilian nurses with two days of training in late July which will enable them to treat patients for parasites – such as hook worms – which have caused a variety of health problems in locals in the region along the Iraqi-Syrian border.

"These are the first steps in giving the Iraqis medical training to treat their own soldiers and I'm definitely glad to be a part of it," said Cmdr. Charles S. Blackadar, an emergency medical provider.

The Iraqi medical personnel were also given training in crucial life-saving skills for treating casualties in combat, such as suturing wounds and excessive blood loss.

The training, which consisted of

several hours of classroom time and practical application, is designed to teach the soldiers how to provide emergency-trauma care for patients in a combat zone.

Perhaps most importantly, the group of a dozen or so Iraqi medics and nurses learned ways to stop severe blood loss – one of the important skills medical personnel must master in a combat zone, according to the American medical professionals here.

"Probably the most important step while providing emergency-trauma care is to immediately stop the bleeding," said Cmdr. Tara J. Zieber, the medical director for the surgical suite.

"Although the training is a step in the right direction to keep Iraqi medical personnel trained, a much larger problem in healthcare in this

region exists – a lack of medical facilities, supplies, and a hospital," said Blackadar.

During a visit to Husaybah earlier this month, Maamoon Sami Rasheed al-Awani, the provincial governor, told local mayors, sheikhs and other Iraqi leaders that the construction of a hospital in the region is "a top priority."

According to Zieber, health problems which stem from parasites, such as hook worms; have remained unchecked in the region for years because local nurses do not have the training or supplies to treat citizens suffering from the parasites.

Now that the Iraqis have received medical supplies to treat the parasites, she said the hook worms

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Pandemic continued...

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At the end of the third day, Morash had already identified those aspects that worked as planned and those areas that needed reworking. The screening tools, for example, worked perfectly, but they discov-

ered some space issues when they tried tending to a dozen patients at once in the triage room they'd designated, he said.

He and his team also discovered some difficulties they hadn't even considered. Heat stress became a factor during the drill for the staff

members wearing their protective gowns and masks. Morash said they will be making plans for ensuring the staff can keep hydrated in a way that limits infection from the patients.

He added that another drill of this type is in the planning stages.

Mercy visit continued...

(Continued from page 1)

received a command ball cap and coin from the ship's Sailors and Bluejacket of the Quarter.

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Ria Villena, one of Mercy's Sailors of the Quarter, said it personally meant a lot to meet the highest ranking officer in the Navy.

"It's good that he's here looking out for his people and answering our questions," Villena said.

The CNO tried to get a feel for every aspect of life aboard the hospital ship. He met with food service assistants in the scullery and nurses in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

"He seemed very interested in the details of how we were working and the welfare of the nursing staff," said Lt. Tara Collins, ICU Di-

vision Officer. "I got an overall sense that he really was concerned and really wanted to get the message out that he's watching us and that what we're doing now is going to shape the future of Navy medicine, and how the Navy deals with issues with other nations."

Mercy also welcomed the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia, B. Lynn Pascoe; and the Indonesian Armed Forces Surgeon General Hidayat, who toured the ship and met with various members of the mission crew.

"I've been here four times," Hidayat said. "It's a big ship with lots of capabilities; that's very useful in my country of 17,000 islands with many people with health problems."



BANDA ACEH, Indonesia - The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Michael Mullen talks with Navy Lt. Tara Collins, of Le Grange, Ky., aboard the U.S. Military Sealift Command (MSC) hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19), during a his visit, July 23. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Mike Leporati

Corpsman Awarded Bronze Star, Purple Heart

By Deborah Kallgren, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth Public Affairs Office

NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER PORTSMOUTH, Va. – Naval Medical Center Portsmouth Deputy Commander Capt. Bruce Gillingham presented the Bronze Star and Purple Heart to Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class (FMF) Dontae Tazewell in a ceremony at Branch Health Clinic Sewells Point, July 20.

Tazewell's family was astonished to learn that he was going to receive a Bronze Star Medal with Valor and a Purple Heart.

In March 2003, Tazewell was a Navy Corpsman augmenting the Marines in Iraq. He had never told his family that he had been wounded – shot in the arm – and had saved the lives of 10 Marines after their unit had been ambushed, carrying and dragging them from the line of fire.

"He never said a word. We had no idea," said Tazewell's aunt Althinia Hunt. "I'm just so proud of him. It's overwhelming to know what he's done. He's the family hero."

Tazewell now serves as the Leading Petty Officer for the Immunization Department at Branch Health Clinic Yorktown. He only

recently learned of the awards himself when he contacted the Marine Air Wing for a different matter.

While the events that resulted in Tazewell's awards occurred more than three years ago, they are still fresh in his mind.

Tazewell had been in the Navy for four years when he was assigned to Marine Air Wing 272 in Iraq. Having joined the Navy upon graduation from high school, Tazewell was realizing his lifelong dream to be a hospital corpsman.

On March 28, 2003, at the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Tazewell was augmenting the 2nd Marine Division on patrol and the unit was ambushed by a band of Iraqi irregulars. Many of the Marines were shot, and, without regard for his personal safety, Tazewell ran into enemy fire eight times to rescue 10 Marines to a hastily prepared defensive location. Shot in the arm himself, Tazewell was patched up, and returned to duty.

"I was just doing my job," Tazewell said.

The Bronze Star Medal is a U.S. Armed Forces individual military decoration and is the fourth highest award for bravery, heroism or meritorious service.

Many of Tazewell's family mem-



BRANCH HEALTH CLINIC SEWELLS POINT, NORFOLK, Va. – Capt. Bruce Gillingham, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth Deputy Commander, presented Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class (FMF) Dontae Tazewell the Bronze Star and Purple Heart during a ceremony held July 20 at the clinic near Norfolk Naval Base. *U.S. Navy photo by Deborah Kallgren*

bers attended the ceremony, including his 5-year-old son, Dontae Jr., who reached up to admire his father's new medals. When asked if he was proud of his dad, he responded with a nod and a grin.

Iraqi Nurses continued...

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can be eliminated in just more than a month.

According to Zieber, the parasites have caused an abundance of women and children with anemia. He became aware of an abundance of anemia in locals when she noticed many children eating dirt – a clear sign of anemia.

Navy doctors have conducted several medical evaluations in local villages to determine what additional medical problems the locals are facing.

The Iraqi nurses were given some medical supplies during their training by the American physicians, such as vitamins and bandages, specifically donated by various private organizations in the U.S. to help the Iraqis.

According to Navy medical personnel, there is a lot of support from charitable organizations back in the U.S. They received numerous donated medical supplies throughout their deployment to the region and are grateful for the generosity and support.



CAMP AL QA'IM, Iraq - Iraqi Army medics and civilian nurses observe as U.S. Navy medical personnel demonstrate how to look for an exit wound for a gunshot victim, played here by a mock patient, July 15, 2006, at a U.S. Navy medical facility at Camp Al Qa'im, Iraq. *U. S. Navy photo by Cpl. Antonio Rosas*

NHC Quantico Welcomes New Commanding Officer

By Heidi Linscott, Naval Hospital Clinic Quantico, Public Affairs

QUANTICO, Va. – Capt. Joan Queen, MSC, took command of Naval Health Clinic, Quantico (NHCQ) from Capt. Jane Przybyl, MSC, during a change of command ceremony July 14.

"It's an extreme honor and privilege that Navy Medicine is affording me this opportunity to oversee the health care needs of the beneficiaries in the southern most part of the National Capital Area," said Queen. "I am extremely humbled and ready for the task at hand. I look forward to working with the Marine Corps' leadership in meeting the health care needs of their Marines and Sailors, and to care for the medical needs of their families."

Queen recently served as the Director for Administration, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md.

She is a credentialed member of the American Academy of Medical Administrators, a member of the American College of Health Care Executives, and a Golden Life member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

During the ceremony, Rear Adm. Adam M. Robinson, Jr., Commander, Navy Medicine, National Capital Area, awarded Przybyl the Legion of Merit award for her outstanding contributions during her command. He spoke of how she led the command through obstacles such as limited funding, limited resources and staff shortages. "She not only overcame but enabled the clinic to be ranked 10 among 123 military outpatient facilities," he said.

"I can't believe how fast the time has gone here. I am proud of the corpsmen who work at the clinic. They come in early and stay late. They make my job easier," Przybyl said. She assured Queen the entire clinic staff will tirelessly assist her in accomplishing the mission of quality care for patients aboard the base.

Mass Casualty Drill Readies ESG 5 Medical for Deployment

By Mass Communication Specialist
1st Class Michael Miller, USS Boxer
Public Affairs

USS BOXER, At Sea - Fleet Surgical Team (FST) 5, USS Boxer's (LHD 4) medical department and medical personnel with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) tested their capabilities during a mass casualty drill aboard Boxer July 20.

The drill directly supported simulated Marine casualties that occurred during a non-combatant evacuation operation (NEO) training at a simulated embassy compound on Camp Pendleton, Calif.

During the NEO training, a simulated terrorist attack injured five Marines. Hospital corpsmen with the Mass Casualty Response Team (MCRT), assigned to the Health Services Detachment of

Combat Logistics Battalion 15 and attached to the 15th MEU, were the first to respond.

"There's a lot of confusion, but you expect it," said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Christopher Nehlen, a native of Greenville, Pa., and the leading petty officer and triage officer of the MCRT. "We are trained to expect the unexpected. No matter how much you train, it's always different."

After being treated by the MCRT, the wounded Marines were evacuated by helicopter to Boxer. Once aboard, the Marines were immediately cared for by Boxer, FST 5 and 15th MEU medical personnel.

"The main reason for the mix of personnel was to ensure that everyone could work as a team," said Boxer Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Patrick Dabuet, who joined the Navy from Mindanao, Philippines. "When time is of the essence, you don't want to be guessing what the other people working with you will do. This drill helped us work as a well-oiled machine."

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Josh Oletski, a platoon corpsman for the Force Reconnaissance Detachment of the Maritime Special Purpose Force attached to the 15th MEU aboard Boxer, had never ex-

perienced a shipboard mass casualty drill.

"Everyone here was really supportive and receptive," said Oletski. "These guys are on the ball."

Along with training, the mass casualty drill was used to evaluate on-board medical response capabilities.

"This training was more intense than usual," added Dabuet. "It's a good learning environment."

The combination of different elements working together during the drill is vital in preparing for their upcoming deployment. It was the first medical evolution aboard Boxer to actively integrate Sailors and Marines.

"We are way ahead as far as integration," said Cmdr. Scott Cota, Lemoore, Calif., Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) 5 surgeon and FST 5 officer-in-charge. "The synergy between the Navy and Marines is amazing. Clinically, we are ready to deploy now."

Boxer, the 15th MEU and FST 5 are all part of ESG 5, which is participating in their Composite Training Unit Exercise off the coast of Southern California while preparing for a Western Pacific Deployment scheduled later this year.



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